

REMENDER • CRAIG • BOYD



40
1989

DEADLY CLASS™

BONE MACHINE
PART 1



W
2019



The Story So Far...

When homeless orphan Marcus Lopez joined Kings Dominion Atelier of the Deadly Arts, he knew it wouldn't be a walk in the park. And he was right. After a deadly Freshman year, and a short-lived taste of the good life on the beach in Mexico, he and Maria are back on campus and living large as the new power couple, each enjoying their own newfound status—Marcus as a Legacy, and Maria as the new head of the notorious Soto Vatos gang.

But there's more to life than school, even one as cutthroat as Kings Dominion. Helmut is hell-bent on vengeance for his departed love, Petra. And it turns out Saya just couldn't stay gone...

RICK REMENDER • Writer
WES CRAIG • Artist
JORDAN BOYD • Colorist
RUS WOOTON • Letterer
BRIAH SKELLY • Editor
ERIKA SCHNATZ • Production

DEADLY CLASS created by
Rick Remender & Wes Craig

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MOTHER AND FATHER, I HOPE THIS LETTER FINDS YOU WELL. I AM ANYTHING BUT.

MY RECENT TROUBLE BEGAN WHEN I WAS CONTACTED BY THE LONG-MISSING SAYA WITH A REQUEST THAT I ARRANGE A REUNION WITH MARIA.

AS I AM SAYA'S PLEDGE I COULDN'T REFUSE, BUT I WOULDN'T HAVE REGARDLESS.

NOT IF THERE WAS A CHANCE I COULD HELP HER AFTER WHAT SHE'D GONE THROUGH.

THE LAST TIME I SAW YOU...

I KNOW.

I'LL NEVER FORGET THE RELIEF ON THEIR FACES, FROZEN IN THE AMBER OF STAINED GLASS LIGHT.

I KNEW MARCUS WOULD FIND YOU. I'M SO SORRY FOR--

STOP. IT'S OKAY. IT DOESN'T MATTER.

I MISSED YOU SO MUCH.

I MISSED YOU TOO.

THEY'D LAST SEEN EACH OTHER ONE HUNDRED MILLION YEARS AGO, ON A MISSION TO STOP A SERIAL KILLER.

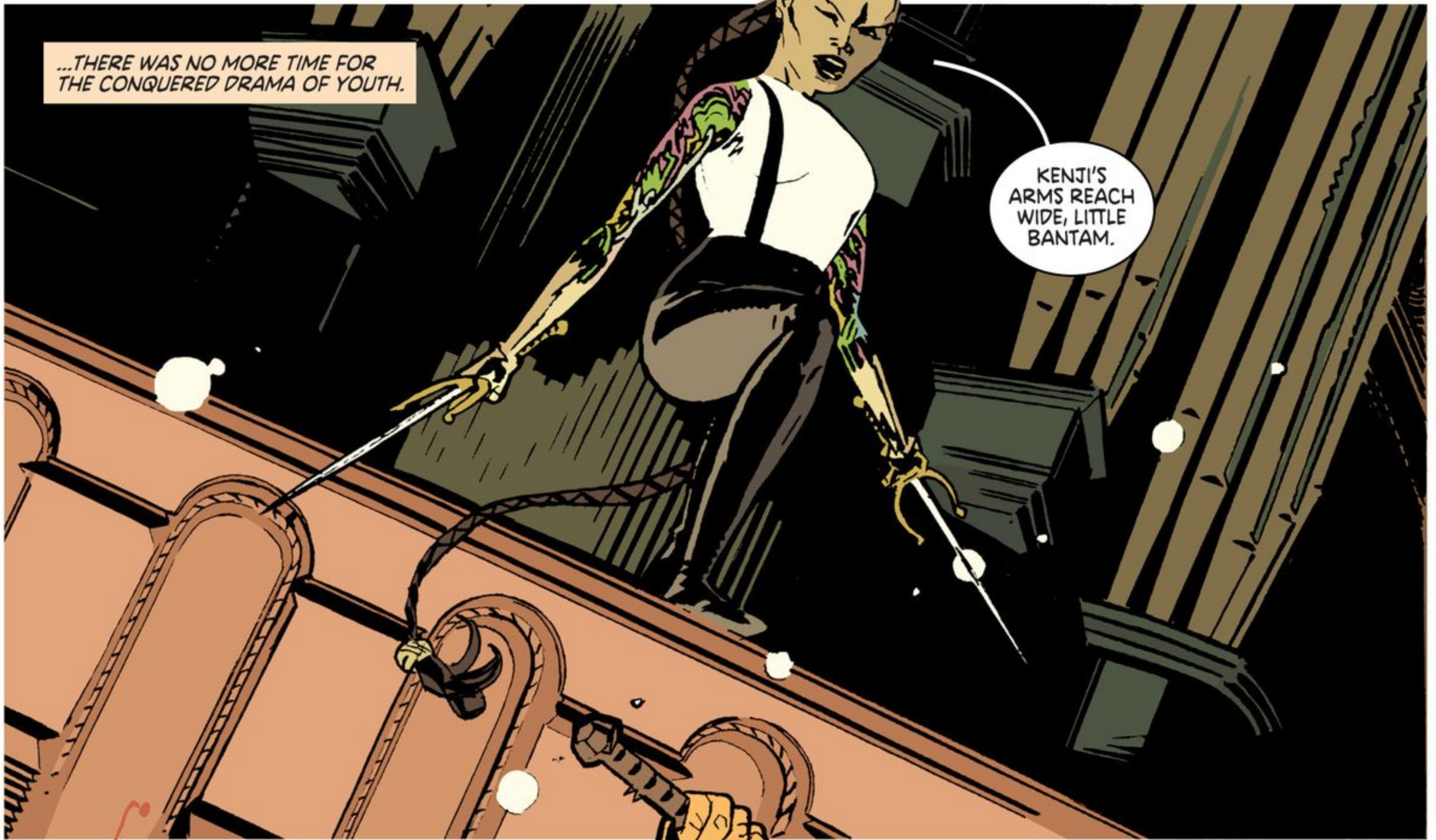
SAYA BETRAYED MARIA.

MARIA TRIED TO KILL SAYA.

I'M IN BAD TROUBLE, MARIA.

HOW KIND OF YOU TO SHARE IT.

BUT NONE OF THAT MATTERED ANYMORE...



...THERE WAS NO MORE TIME FOR THE CONQUERED DRAMA OF YOUTH.

KENJI'S ARMS REACH WIDE, LITTLE BANTAM.



THE KAMIGA BRING HIS WILL!

IN A WORLD OF MENACE AND CONFUSION, THERE IS NO COMFORT LIKE AN OLD FRIEND WHO TRULY KNOWS YOU.

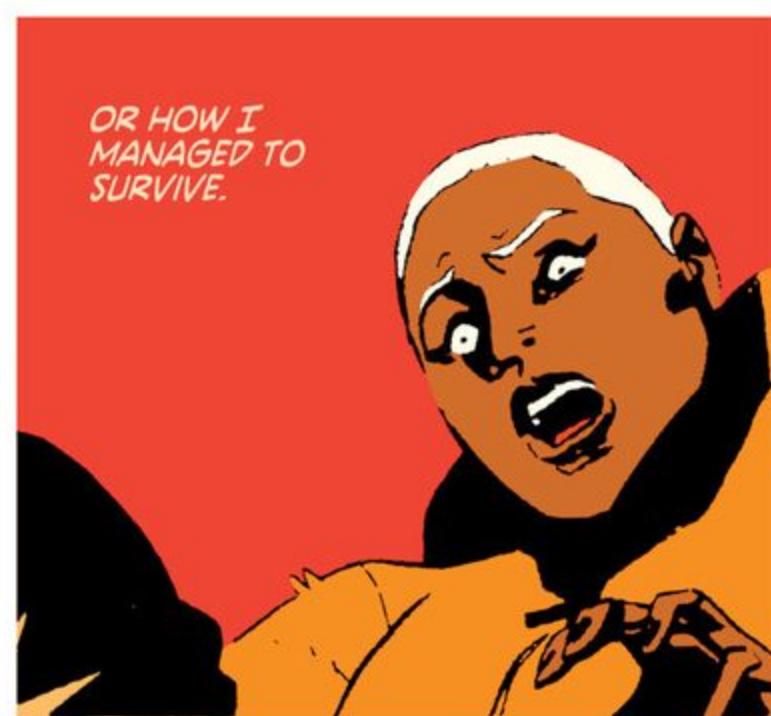


AND IT WAS CLEAR.



SAYA AND MARIA DESPERATELY NEEDED EACH OTHER.











Z
Z
Z
Z
Z
...

**A REP
THE P**



RESPONSE TO WEAKNESS



BUT
TOSAHWI
HADN'T
LEFT HIM.

A SURVIVOR
A DYING

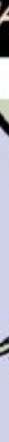
HELMUT K



AL INSTIN
ANIMAL E



HAD NEVER



A close-up of a hand with a yellow star tattoo on the back, gripping a green object. The hand is shown from the side, with the fingers wrapped around the object. The background is a solid light blue color.



BRANDY LYNN
KILLED PETRA, THE
ONLY LOVE HE'D
EVER KNOWN.

AND, AS WE'D LATER
LEARN, HELMUT HAD
PLANS FOR BRANDY.

AND FOR MARCUS, WHO HAD WITNESSED HER MURDER
AND--BY HELMUT'S REASONING, AT LEAST--



--DONE
NOTHING
TO HELP.

HELMUT SAW
MARCUS AS A CURSE
UPON OUR SMALL
BAND OF FRIENDS.

THE MOMENT
HE SHOWED UP,
EVERYTHING
WENT SOUR.

BUT THIS WASN'T
THE TIME TO DEAL
WITH THEM.



HELMUT KNEW THAT KILLING
THEM WAS FOR HIM.

BUT WHAT HE SET OUT TO
DO THAT FATEFUL NIGHT--



--THAT WAS FOR PETRA.

YOU KNOW
THERE'S A
TUNNEL THAT
LEADS RIGHT TO
THE STREET,
RIGHT?





YOU GOT ANY IDEA WHAT WE'RE HEADING INTO?

A DEATH CULT.

RIGHT...

...BUT WHAT DOES THAT EVEN MEAN? BLOOD SACRIFICE, CORPSE FUCKING, ALIEN GOAT WORSHIP...?



IT'S NOT A MOVIE, DUMMKOPF DICKHEAD.

THESE PEOPLE, HER DAD'S CULT, ALL I KNOW IS THEY TAKE STRANGE DRUGS AND...



...WELL, PETRA COULDN'T TALK ABOUT MUCH MORE.

SHE'D START BUT THEN THAT LOOK WOULD COME OVER HER, THAT DISTANT GAZE...

AND SHE'D JUST STOP TALKING.



SO, LIKE SHE *COULDN'T*? YOU THINK SHE WAS BRAIN-WASHED?



I DON'T KNOW.

BUT WHATEVER THEY DID TO HER... IT WAS *BAD*.



WONDER HOW MUCH LIN KNOWS ABOUT IT. LIKE, IF HE'S IN ON IT WITH ALL THESE FUCKED UP LEGACY PARENTS?

I MEAN, LIN KNEW YOU WERE DATING PETRA BUT WHEN SHE DIDN'T COME BACK, HE NEVER ASKED YOU WHERE SHE WENT.



NO ONE DID. PETRA DISAPPEARED AND NO ONE CARED.

AFTER THIS, AFTER I TAKE CARE OF ALL THE OTHER PEOPLE WHO HURT HER...



...LIN'S NEXT.





WHEN DOES MR. YOLGA PREACH?

I'M TOLD IT'S LIFE CHANGING.



LIFE CHANGING? THE ARCH-BISHOP?! PREACH TO US? HA!

THAT'S PRETTY GOOD.



HA. YEAH, MY PAL IS A FUNNY ONE.

WELL, TO BE **FRANK**-- EVEN THOUGH MY NAME IS **BOB**-- I'VE ONLY MET MR. YOLGA TWICE, AND EACH TIME, WELL...



IT CAN'T BE EXPLAINED.

AFTER YOU, PLEASE, NEIGHBOR.

BUT IT'S TRUE WHAT THEY SAY?



YUP, HE MAKES THE WORTHLESS FEEL WORTHY.

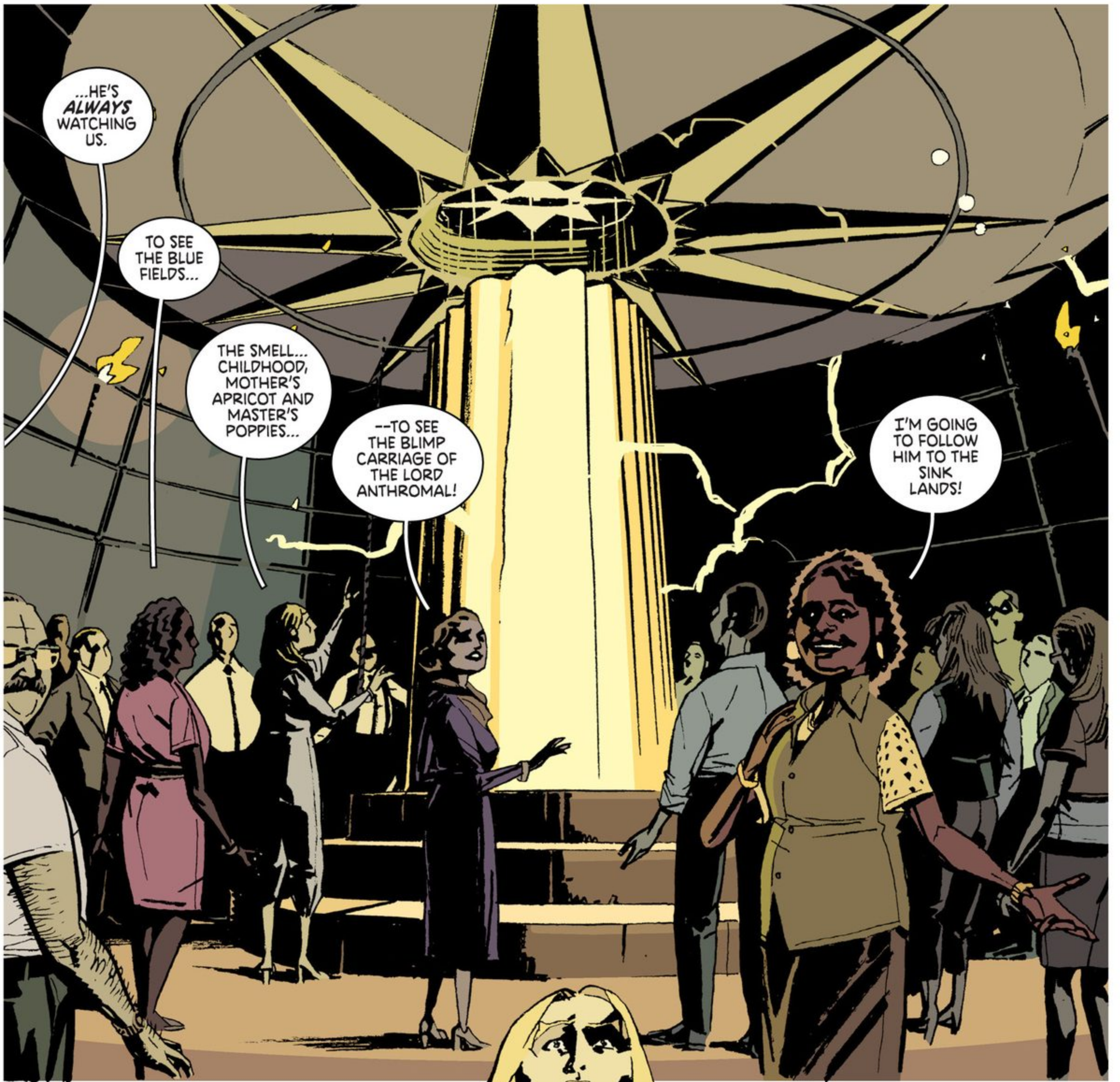
LIFTS UP THE DOWNTRODDEN AND SHOWS THEM A NEW KIND OF HOPE.



HIS RESPONSIBILITIES TO THE CONNECTION MAKE HIM A VERY BUSY MAN.

SO, NO, HE'S NOT HERE. NOT IN BODY.

HOWEVER, WE'RE **VERY** LUCKY...



...HE'S ALWAYS WATCHING US.

TO SEE THE BLUE FIELDS...

THE SMELL... CHILDHOOD, MOTHER'S APRICOT AND MASTER'S POPPIES...

--TO SEE THE BLIMP CARRIAGE OF THE LORD ANTHROMAL!

I'M GOING TO FOLLOW HIM TO THE SINK LANDS!



TO SUCKLE THE HONEYCOMBS THAT GROW UPON HIS FEET!

ISN'T THAT RIGHT, BOYS?!

RIGHT...

GREAT!

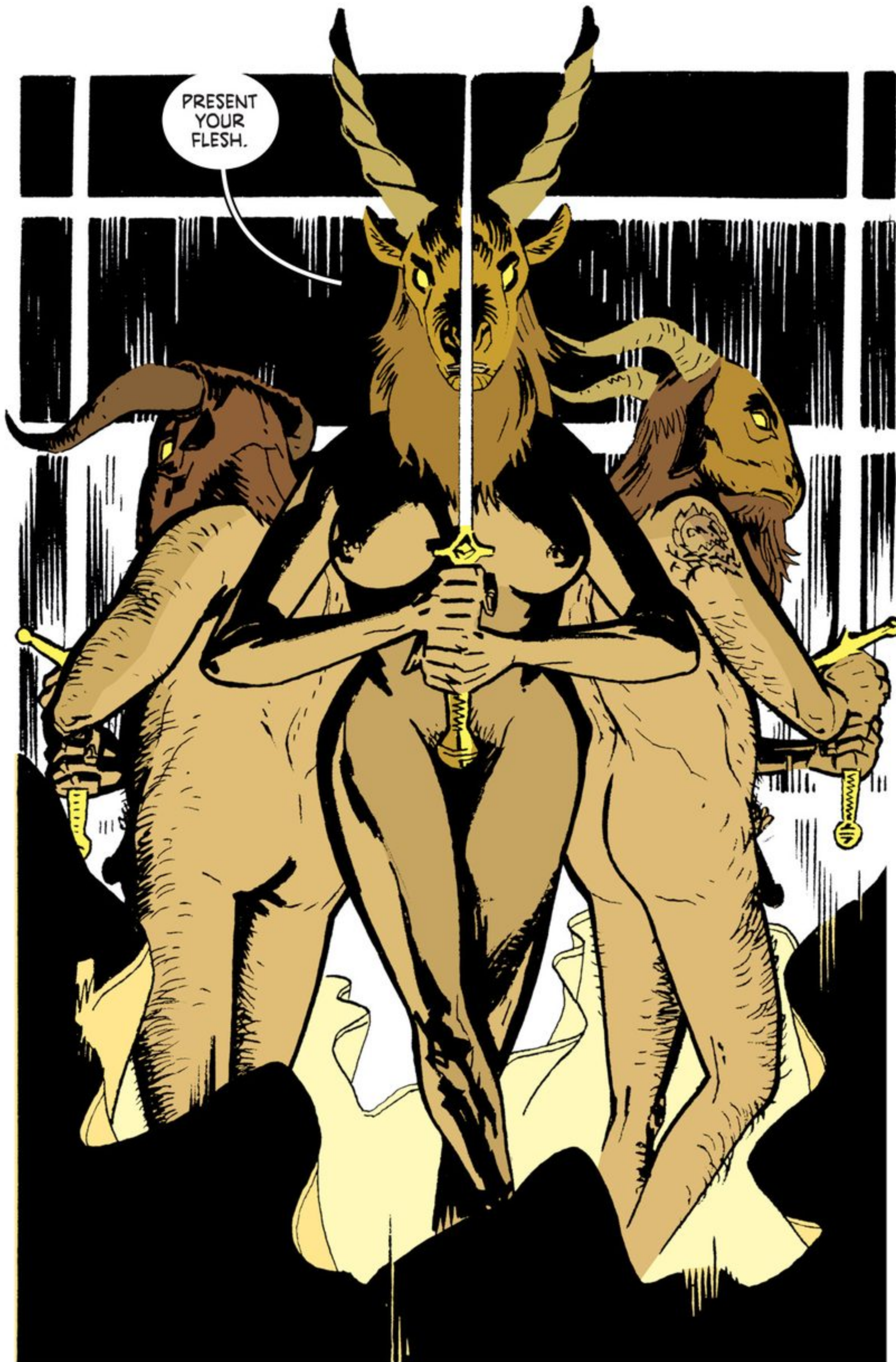


CLK

LET'S GET DOWN TO IT.











NO GOD
WAS *EVER*
ON YOUR
SIDE!



YOU
WERE
KILLED BY
DEATH!

CRASH!



HE
SENDS THE
SENDER!

HUKK--!

PNK!



OPEN
THE DOOR,
MOTHER-
FUCKER!

YOUR
FEAR--
IT IS
REAL!

YOU
MUST
NOT--



GET US
OUT OF
HERE!

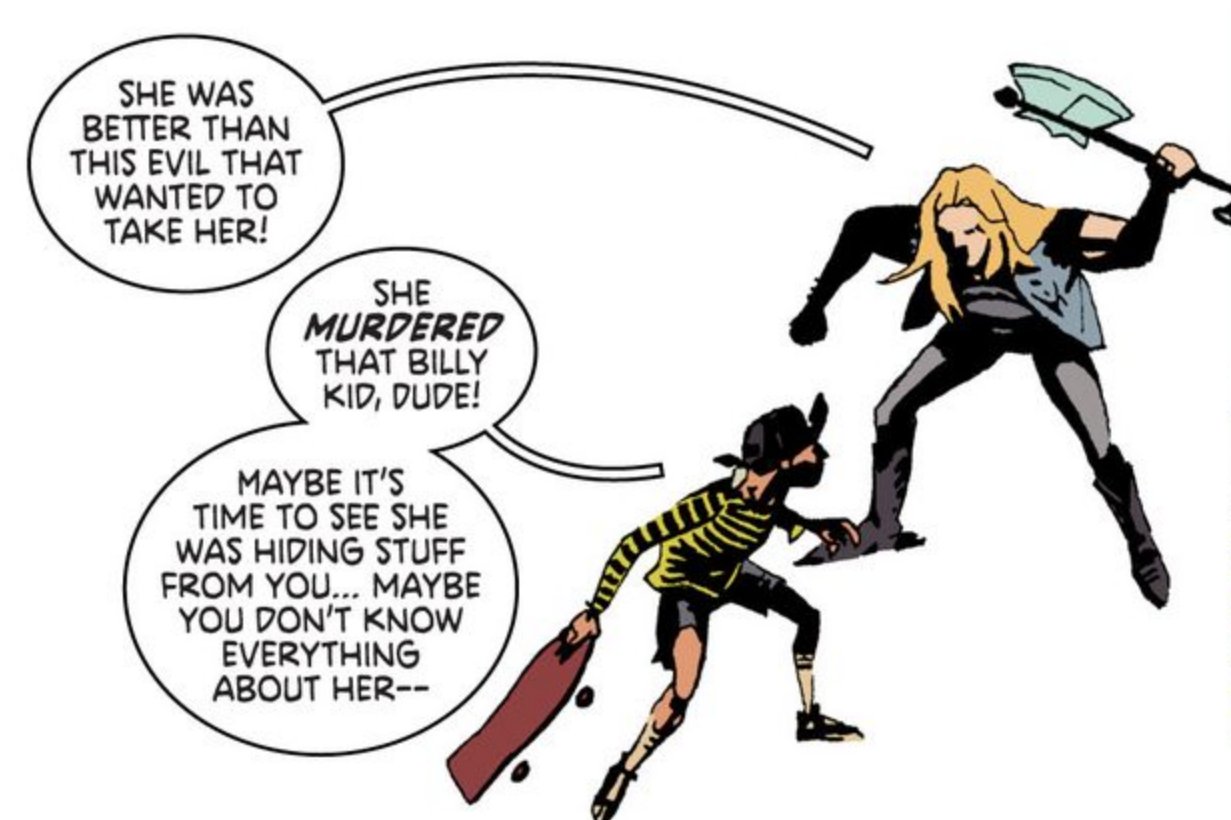


CAN'T
LEAVE
NOW...

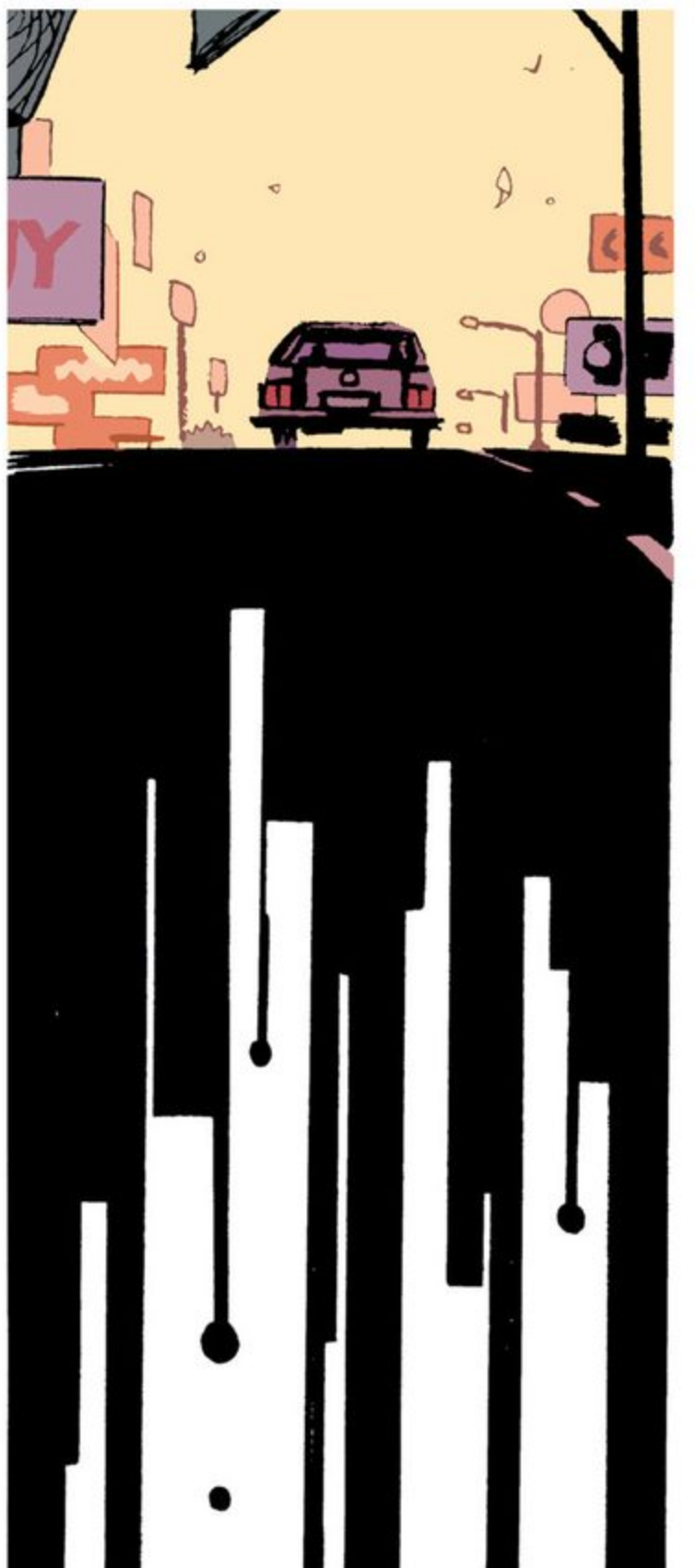
I'D
NEVER
FIND THEM
AGAIN!











DEAD LETTER OFFICE

Send comments and questions to
WriteRemender@gmail.com!
Mark letters "OK to print".

Setting up the pieces for what will be a lot of bad chaos awaiting our cast. Don't want to ramble here lest I reveal a plan or two and spoil something. Let's get to your letters.

Dear Rick,
I'm not quite sure how to start this letter. I have a battle of feelings inside of me, most of what I feel is excitement and nervousness. And also a lot of hopefulness that you will get to read these words. I also want to apologize in advance because English is not my first language, Spanish is.

Last year, I was going through a really rough patch. I found myself in a very unhealthy place, where for the first time in my life I was doubting myself and suffering from a lot of anxiety. I was out living life, in a full self-love movement, dedicated to my job and work as a fashion photographer when my brother introduced me to a friend of his. His name is Alberto, and spoiler alert, he is my boyfriend now. At first, I'm not going to lie, I didn't feel much chemistry with him. He was a gamer, a full-on geek, and although I am a bit of a geek too, he is just a whole other level. We met playing Dungeons and Dragons and against all odds in just a couple of weeks we were officially a couple.

We've been together for almost a year now and I am completely in love with him. We are total opposites; I've always been a super outgoing person, social, a bit loud and very artistic. He is quiet, reserved, and keeps his feelings to himself 99% of the time. We have a long distance relationship for most of the year as he is finishing

university to become a comic book writer. Spoiler alert: you are the reason why.

Alberto is a very unique person, he has an incredible imagination, a fascination for words and worlds of sci-fi and, most importantly, comics. After months of being together, we were talking on the phone and I was trying desperately to get him to open up to me. When I asked him why he wanted to be a comic book writer, your name immediately came up. You see, I had no idea, but for a very long time Alberto suffered from depression. He told me the story of how for weeks and even months he couldn't really find a will to do anything much at all. There are many details to his story, but it is not really my story to tell. However, as someone who has not suffered from depression, I was very surprised to hear that in his darkest moments he thought about taking his own life. But the only thing that kept him going was your comic books.

Every day, he would tell himself to wait another month. To wait for the next one to come out because if he decided to end things, he will not be able to know what happened on the next comic book and to his favorite characters. So your writing bought him enough time to eventually get better, be healthy and happy, get the chance for me to meet him many years later, and find the inspiration he needed to become a writer himself, and one day be the 'Rick Remender' for another kid or adult.

I really did not want to make this letter heavy or dark. This is honestly just a thank you letter. Alberto doesn't even know I'm writing this to you, but I just felt like I had to. I just wanted to thank you myself. I watched

your TV show Deadly Class (amazing by the way!) and I just want to support you and your art. I know being an artist can be sometimes overwhelming. I know your show got recently canceled and how heartbreaking that must be. So if you feel discouraged and defeated, just know the real impact and importance that your writing has had. Whenever any deals, studios, books, movies, or whatever you have to deal with doesn't follow through, just know that in this world there is someone you gave hope and a second chance at life to. How loved and respected you are by your fans and how I get to say goodnight and good morning to the love of my life because of you. Your words will forever mean the world to me and especially to Alberto.

Thank you!!!
Valeria Vernaza

My son came home today from school and told me that all of his friends had ditched him at lunch and recess. He didn't understand what happened. Didn't understand what he had done wrong. Why he had to sit on the bench alone when all of his friends were running around playing. It's a painful memory that I identified with. I thought for a while, considered what to say to him and how to handle it in an authentic way that didn't just feel like a loving parent telling his son some hollow words of comfort. I remembered a few songs that inspired me to get past feeling unloved and rejected. I took him to my office and we sat and listened to the songs, empowering old-school punk rock, written by kids in similar circumstances, who'd found a philosophical means to bypass the slings and arrows of childhood cruelty. After he listened



to the songs, I could see him smile; I could see the songs had made him feel better, feel like he wasn't alone, and that he shouldn't take it so hard.

I say this a lot, but art, literature, film, and music are vital, and most important when they are pure to the intention of a creator attempting to share his or her authentic voice. This is how we connect and unify as a species and even support one another. Through identification we feel less alone, less like mutants... less unlovable. And when we express those ideas and emotions in their rawest form, with no veneer, no attempts to protect ourselves or our egos, or to try to look cool, that's when we are successful.

To know that something that I wrote helped somebody in a similar situation go through something horrible and kept them engaged with life...there are really no words for that. I'm humbled, I'm honored... though I feel those things, it all sounds like bullshit. Instead I'll share my side of things.

For what it's worth, this letter came when I was at a very low point. I go through long periods of wondering what I have to say, what good my work is, why I keep trying so hard...the sorts of things that a mind has to process when facing a business failure based on one's creation. Obviously, making a season of television based on my writing that I'm proud of

cannot be viewed as a failure. And the reasons the show was canceled were very frustrating and out of my control. But I did take it all very personally. Once again, I was that kid sitting on the bench, the one everybody had run away from. Left to wonder why no one liked me and why I couldn't ever feel like I belonged.

Then I received this letter from you, and I was reminded of why I got into this and why I continue to do it, and that if something I wrote affected one other human being this much, that I've succeeded. Life is strange the way it works out, I helped Alberto, and through you and your kind letter, Alberto helped me.

ART BY MARTHY GREEN



Hey Remender and the DEADLY CLASS team.

First off, congratulations on the FREAKING TV SHOW, I'm sure it's every comic creator's dream to get their work adapted to a show or film. Second off, DEADLY CLASS is one of my two favorite comics (other than I HATE FAIRYLAND). I just finished issue #27, and I'm dying to get the next 9 issues if my local comic store has them. If not I'll have to get the next trade, but that's ok, takes up less space.

I have never come across a main character that I have related so heavily to until Marcus Lopez Arguello. We're both in love with a girl who only has interest in being

friends with us for the time being. We're both anxious all the time and have that "Emotional Paranoia" thing he was talking about. The girl I like is Chinese, not Japanese, but still, kind of crazy, I know how he feels to love someone so much it hurts a little in the chest. I love the roller-coaster the story takes you on, you ship Saya and Marcus together so hard, and you get pissed when Willie jacks her from Marcus. Then you're like, "Ok, this is happening" and then Saya all of a sudden guts the hell out of Marcus and you're like "What the literal fuck just happened"—I was pretty relieved that he turned out to be alive. Thank you for making a comic that you can cry, laugh, yell, and love to all

at the same exact time.

I've been trying to make a comic of my own, I've got some pages rough-sketched out. Any advice?

Taylor

The young heart pining for an unrequited love is an over-used device, I know this, but it's also a situation that so many of us have ended up in. Things like that become over-used because they are things we all experience, which makes them universal—which, in my opinion, makes them fertile. Many of the dynamics between the characters in this book are built out of things I went through, and I do my best to stay true to

what actually happened, to not allow my adult writer's mind to update it or polish it. It's nice to hear that you identify with how Marcus processes all of that with Saya. A relationship that is soon to be revisited...

As for advice on making a comic, lock yourself in a room and write and draw and letter and print. Rinse, wash, and repeat for years and years, and eventually you'll get good at it. But they can be some hard years. Good luck.

Dear Mr. Remender,
Holy FUCK.....did I love the FCBD DEADLY CLASS "KILLER SET"!!!!!!!!!!

It was beautiful, violent, and thought-provoking. Being a musician, it really spoke to me. I've enjoyed every page of all the books you've released since FEAR AGENT, and DEADLY CLASS is my favorite by a hair. Tough to pick one above another, as they're all so different.

The SYFY show has been a great adaption as well. Can't wait for season 2. Keep up the great work.....it gives me much joy.

\m/ CHEERS \m/

Chris Eichhorn
Hyde Park, NY

I'm glad you enjoyed the show. Being entrusted to serve as a showrunner and develop my own property was a dream come true. And I am also incredibly proud of what we produced. The fates conspired against a second season, I'm slowly coming to terms with that, but it makes me incredibly happy to hear all of the

people we connected with and brought to the books.

Dear Rick,
Those final two pages [of issue #39] gave me serious goosebumps. No dialog, because none was needed.

What a great issue!

All of you are in sync and delivering a beautiful and mind-blowing book, effortlessly creating the kind of art that you only see from a team of creators pouring their hearts into their work. Being a writer myself with a few upcoming short series, curious as to what you think is the secret sauce to keep that energy alive for 39+ issues in a team. Finally, how much longer do you plan to keep it going? With all the pieces now in place with Saya's arrival, I fear the end is approaching soon.

And thanks for all the great books man, FEAR AGENT was a big inspiration for me to get into writing, and all of your current books continue to be awe-inspiring.

Carlos Giffoni

Glad you like the issue. That was one of my favorites as well. It felt like we were firing on all cylinders. In order to keep the energy going you have to 1) never stop caring, and 2) always consider if the reader still cares. Managing your pacing is hugely important. I like to do lots of character work and keep things slow and suddenly put my foot on the gas and veer the car into a wall. I think it's important to shake up the foundations so that the story is never predictable, so the reader is never ahead of

you. Sometimes that means shaking up your outlines and thinking of how similar situations in your life transpired, because those are never formulaic. I wish you all the best with your projects.

I just recently started reading this comic after watching this series because I just had to have more. I love the way the characters are written. They are so raw and so aware of their own struggles, it's haunting. Damn, all I can say is that this comic is amazing. Thank you so much for bringing it to TV, otherwise I would never have seen it. This comic is truly a work of art. You, sir, are changing lives. God bless.

Nobert Kihembo

We've all poured so much blood, sweat, and tears into this book that knowing the TV show, short-lived though it was, is bringing new eyes to our labors is truly very gratifying. We still have a lot of stories to tell and hope we can keep you just as excited.

That's it for this month. "BONE MACHINE," Part Two will be out in a month. This arc is built in a very strange format I'm playing with, one that isn't similar to anything we've done in the past, but should go down as an interesting one for Deadly fans.

Rick

THE DEADLY ARTS

We welcome your fanart! Send them with
the email marked "OK TO PRINT" to:
WriteRemender@gmail.com.



ART BY RAFAEL ANTUNES
INSTAGRAM @RAFAEL_VL_ANTUNES

ART BY
ROBERT DOBRISOR
INSTAGRAM
@FILTHYARTISTINHELL

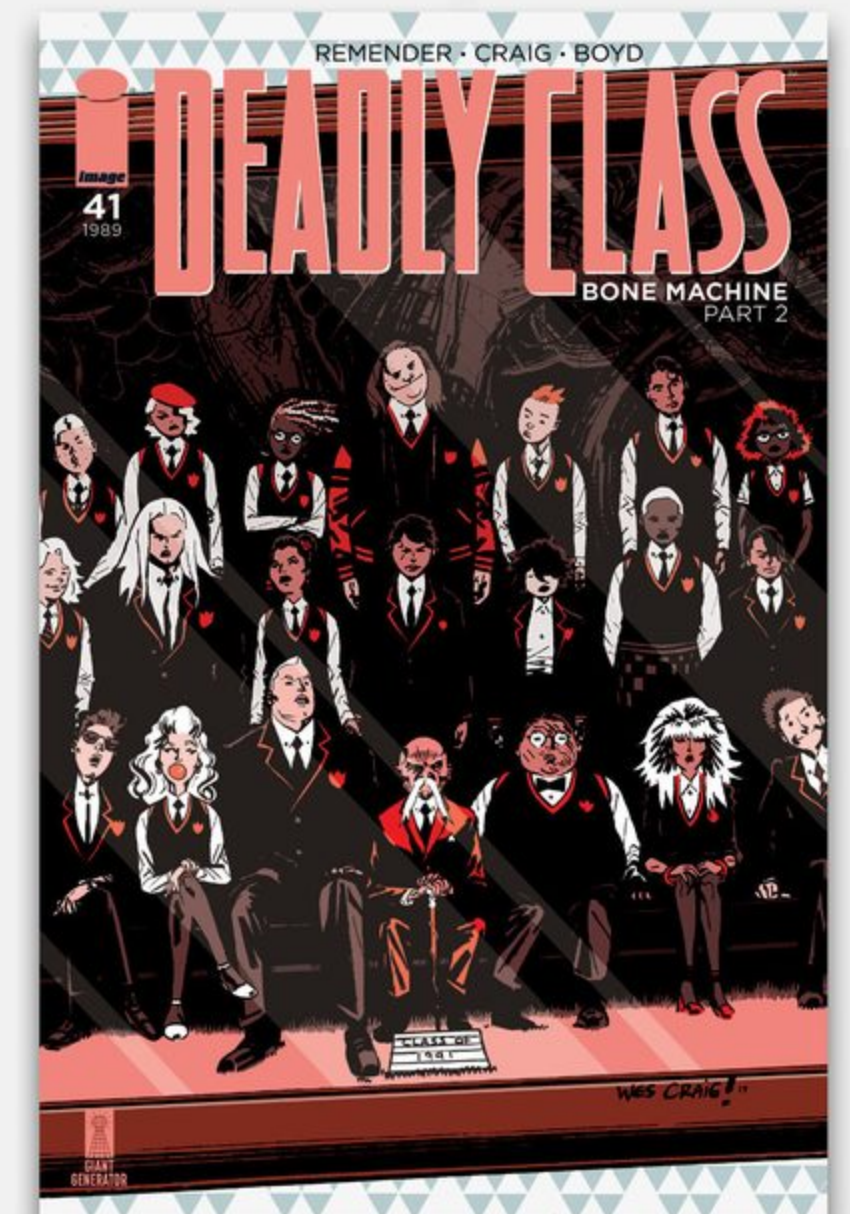


ART BY DYLAN LAM-JOHNSON



DEADLY CLASS

NEXT ISSUE





RATED M/MATURE